



EHC

EUROPEAN HONORS COUNCIL

European Honors Council unites talent development initiatives in higher education

PRESS RELEASE

June 3, 2016

Initiatives focusing on talent development, excellence and honors in higher education have been on the rise throughout Europe over the last fifteen years. But a European network uniting these initiatives was still lacking. This gap is now filled with the creation of the European Honors Council (EHC). The EHC is launched on June 3 at the international conference 'Honours Futures' in Utrecht, an event on the official Dutch EU Presidency agenda.

The EHC offers opportunities for exchange of knowledge and good practices, possibilities for student and teacher exchange at honors level, joint research projects and a platform to support the development of (structural embeddedness of) honors programs in national education systems. The EHC is now open for individual membership.

The added value of the European Honors Council compared to existing networks is recognized in its focus on *higher education* (including the links from secondary to higher education and from higher education to working life / Ph.D) and its focus on *programs that are designed* for students who can and want to do more than the regular program offers.

International Board

The EHC has an acting international board with board members representing organizations, networks and higher education institutions from ten countries (list below). The EHC forms four committees, focused on education, research, student affairs and international affairs. Acting President is Dr. Marca Wolfensberger, Professor (lector) at Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen and Honours coordinator at the Faculty of Geosciences at Utrecht University (the Netherlands). She sees the official launch of the EHC as a milestone. 'To create future-proof honors education we need networks serving the common goods. Our EHC supports international exchange of students and teachers and research to broaden up views and to co-create the honors education of the future.'

Membership

To become a member of the EHC, you fill out a short questionnaire about yourself, your interests and honors programs you are connected to. Membership is free until further notice. More information about the EHC and the membership questionnaire can be found at www.honorscouncil.eu.

Board members

- President: Dr. Marca Wolfensberger, lector (professor) Talent Development in Higher Education and Society at Hanze University of Applied Sciences, honors coordinator at Utrecht University (Netherlands)
- Financial affairs (treasurer): Ron Weerheijm, MArch, program manager Honours, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)
- Membership affairs: Dr. Marleen Eyckmans, honors program coordinator University of Antwerp (Belgium)
- Secretary (internal and external communication): Dr. Maarten Hogenstijn, project leader Honors in Europe at Hanze University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)
- Commissioners education: Prof. Christian Fischer, Internationales Centrum für Begabungsforschung (ICBF), Münster (Germany); with Ron Weerheijm
- Commissioner research: Dr. Astrid Fritz, Researcher at Austrian Research and Support Centre for the Gifted and Talented (ÖZBF) (Austria)
- Commissioners student affairs: Drs. Pieter Veenstra, Program manager Hanze Honours College, Hanze University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands); with Vivian van Gerven, ICBF, Münster (Germany)
- Commissioners international affairs: Prof. Nils O. Andersen, University of Copenhagen (Denmark), in connection with the Nordic Talent Network, uniting talent development initiatives in the Nordic countries; with Dr. Astrid Fritz

Note to editor (not for publication):

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